

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No. : 09/973,088
Applicant : Marie B. CONNETT-PORCEDDU
Filed : 10 October 2001
TC/A.U. : 1638
Examiner : Stuart F. Baum

Confirmation No. 4800

Docket No. : 2411-110
Customer No. : 6449

Director of the United States Patent
and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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AMENDMENT

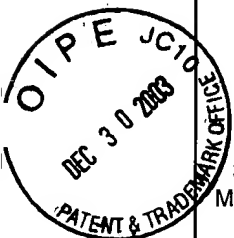
Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In connection with the RCE being filed concurrently herewith, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Material added has been indicated by underlining (underlining) and material deleted has been indicated by strikethrough (~~strikethrough~~).

Remarks begin on page 13 of this paper.



| | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. | Application Number | 09/973,088 |
| | Filing Date | October 10, 2001 |
| | First Named Inventor | CONNETT-PORCEDDU, <i>et al.</i> |
| | Group Art Unit | 1638 |
| | Examiner Name | Stuart F. Baum |
| | Attorney Docket Number | 2411-110 |

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This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See *Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice*, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (April 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114
 - a. ☐ Previously submitted
 - i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____
 - ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
 - iii. ☐ Other _____
 - b. Enclosed
 - i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
 - ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declarations
 - iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. ☐ Other _____
2. Miscellaneous
 - a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.170(i) required.)
 - b. ☐ Other _____
3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
 - a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.
 - i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
 - ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
 - iii. ☐ Other _____
 - b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 2,250 _____ is enclosed.
 - c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed.)

| SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT REQUIRED | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|------|-------------------|
| NAME AND REG. NUMBER | Jeffrey L. Ihnen, Reg. No. 28,957 | | |
| SIGNATURE | | DATE | December 30, 2003 |

01/05/2004 CNGUYEN 00000077 09973088

01 FC:1801 770.00 OP

01/05/2004 CNGUYEN 00000077 09973088

02 FC:1254 1480.00 OP